

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 01945 211637Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 /087 W
-----019426 211715Z /42

R 211410Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2302
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELTN, WZ
SUBJECT: SWAZILAND RAILROAD OPERATIONS

REF: MAPUTO 889 (NOTAL), MAPUTO 0893 (NOTAL)

1. OFFICIALS AT SWAZILAND IRON ORE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT THEY ARE BEING SUPPLIED THREE
TRAINS DAILY TO MOVE IRON ORE TO MAPUTO. HOWEVER, MINIMUM
OF SIX TRAINS PER DAY ARE NEEDED FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS.
THIS REDUCED OPERATING LEVEL SINCE MOZAMBICAN INDEPENDENCE
HAS CASUED TWO MILLION TONS OF IRON ORE TO BE LEFT AT
VARIOUS SIDINGS WAITING TO BE SHIPPED. (UNDER NORMAL
CONDITIONS NO IRON ORE SHOULD BE WAITING FOR SHIPMENT.)
THIS HAS RESULTED IN ORE'S BEING HANDLED AN EXTRA TWO
TIMES. SWAZILAND CHIEF MINING ENGINEER DESCRIBED SITUATION
AS "EXCEPT FOR BLASTING, WE ARE MINING THE ORE A
SECOND TIME."

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WM COSTS HAVE RISEN SUBSTANTIALLY TO GET ORE TO MAPUTO.
SHIPPING SCHEDULES ARE IN DISARRAY BECAUSE REQUIRED AMOUNTS
OF ORE ARE OFTEN NOT AVAILABLE ON REQUIRED DATES.

3. ORE MINING WILL CEASE DECEMBER THIS YEAR.
HOWEVER, OWING TO BACKLOG OF UNSHIPED ORE AND TO NEED

TO RE-SIFT IT, SHIPMENTS WILL CONTINUE FOR ABOUT TWO MORE YEARS.

4. SUGAR GROWERS FACING SIMILAR PROBLEMS HAVE RESORTED TO TRUCKING CONTRACTS (MBABANE 840). THIS HAS NOT PROVIDED SUFFICIENT CAPACITY, THOUGH, AND THEY HAVE RECENTLY PURCHASED PRE-FAB BUILDINGS FOR SUGAR STORAGE DURING PEAK SEASONS.

5. COMMENT: GOS HAS LOST ALL CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY OF MOZAMBICAN GOVERNMENT TO GET PORT OF MAPUTO FUNCTIONING REASONABLY WELL IN NEAR FUTURE. CONSEQUENCE IS THAT SWAZILAND'S EXPORT POSITION AND FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH ARE BEING SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED. THERE IS NEAR UNANIMITY ON NEED FOR PROPOSED RAIL LINK WITH SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS NO MATTER HOW DAMAGING IT MAY BE TO SWAZILAND'S CREDENTIALS WITH BLACK AFRICA.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IRON, RAILROADS, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBABAN01945
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770259-1053
Format: TEL
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770734/aaaabcup.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3de4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MAPUTO 889, 77 MAPUTO 893
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1791955
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWAZILAND RAILROAD OPERATIONS
TAGS: ELTN, EMIN, WZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3de4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009